

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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NEW YORK STATE
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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STATEWIDE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
FOR
THE NEW YORK STATE
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Statewide Goals and Objectives for New York State's Coastal Management Program are based on ideas generated by various governmental agencies, advisory committees, civic associations, interest groups and interested citizens involved in the development of the State's coastal management program.

An initial set of statewide goals and objectives was distributed to all program participants for review and comment. A questionnaire was attached to elicit opinions on the content and format of the proposed goals and objectives. This paper contains revised statewide goals and objectives which incorporate the comments and suggestions received during the review process.

Responses indicated general agreement that the proposed statewide goals and objectives adequately reflect and are consistent with the respondent's concerns and interests. A few respondents considered the suggested goals and objectives vague, non-committal and too general to be meaningful. Reflecting the consensus of comments received, the revised goals and objectives are general enough to maintain a statewide perspective yet specific enough to reflect shared concerns of coastal communities throughout the state.

The basic framework used for presenting the statewide goals and objectives has been retained since most respondents indicated support for it. The framework was originally chosen after a review of the work statements of program participants revealed a common interpretation of the underlying purpose of coastal management: to develop and implement a program which ensures informed consideration of social, economic and environmental factors in making decisions which guide the development and conservation of the State's coastal areas. The tendency to think about coastal management in terms of social, economic, environmental and program concerns is the basis for organizing the statewide goals and objectives into four categories:

- I. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- III. ENVIRONMENT
- IV. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Each category has a primary (general) goal followed by more specific goals and objectives for achieving the primary goals.

The terms "goal" and "objective" are used as defined by New York State's coastal management program in a technical guidelines paper prepared by the Division of State Planning.

GOAL - A goal is the end toward which the effort of a program is directed. In a social context it is a broad statement of policy focused on long term accomplishments for the common good of the community.

OBJECTIVE - An objective is a specific statement of long or short term achievement and is more specific than a goal. An objective tends to relate to a particular task and because of this it can usually be measured and evaluated. An objective is generally considered to be a subpart of a goal.

A few respondents expressed concern that certain goals and objectives conflict. Including all goals and objectives, even if conflicting, is in keeping with the charge that land and water use decisions be made, as the CZM Act requires, with "full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic and esthetic values as well as to needs for economic development." Acknowledging that significant conflicts exist is necessary; there will always be unavoidable trade-offs associated with making decisions about how to develop and conserve the limited coastal resources that shape all aspects of our environment.

It should be noted that defining goals and objectives is an ongoing, adaptive process. These statewide goals and objectives will evolve; they will be refined, made more specific, and given operational meaning in the specific State policies that are adopted as the coastal management program progresses through the planning phase toward implementation.

I. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS AND SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS TO USE AND ENJOY AMENITIES IN THE COASTAL ZONE.

GOAL 1.0

Provide opportunities for public access to and public recreation in the coastal zone.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Improve public access to the shoreline by utilizing a variety of techniques (scenic or conservation easements, public acquisition, arrangements for public use of certain privately owned beaches).
- 1.2 Provide opportunity for public participation in water-oriented activities (swimming, boating).
- 1.3 Establish public recreational areas (including open space) along the shoreline while preventing excessive recreational use.
- 1.4 Increase the use of underutilized recreational facilities, upgrade existing recreational facilities, and expand recreational facilities in high need regions where such expansion is compatible with resource protection.

GOAL 2.0

Preserve, maintain, and restore areas of historic and cultural significance.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Preserve historic and archeological sites, and develop historic highway and trailway corridors.
- 2.2 Utilize the educational potential of the shoreline through the establishment of marine museums and nature reserves.
- 2.3 Promote urban waterfront restoration in areas of historic or cultural significance.

I. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - Con't.

GOAL 3.3

Preserve and promote the visual quality of the coastline.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Prevent incompatible development in areas of high scenic quality.
- 3.2 Ensure the availability of scenic views and vistas through the development of scenic highways and trailways, promontory lookouts, and abandoned railroad rights of way.
- 3.3 Preserve unique geologic formations such as the Palisades and Niagara Falls.
- 3.4 Develop design guidelines for shoreline development, such as industrial plants and infrastructure facilities, that promote visual compatibility with the environment.
- 3.5 Encourage the incorporation of scenic assessments in planning programs.

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTE THE LONG TERM ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ALL CITIZENS THROUGH WISE USE AND PROTECTION OF COASTAL RESOURCES.

GOAL 1.0

Provide for economically beneficial water-dependent uses in the coastal zone.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Promote the development of facilities and activities which are water-dependent e.g., water-based recreation and tourism, fishing, shipping, marinas and water-dependent industry.
- 1.2 Develop regulations and incentives to encourage those uses which are water-dependent and to discourage and prevent those uses which are not.

GOAL 2.0

Identify and determine the need for infrastructure projects that must be located in the coastal zone.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Reserve suitable land/water areas and develop coastal dependent infrastructure facilities (ports, energy facilities) that are essential to the State's economic viability.
- 2.2 Guide OCS and related development on land and water to shape the physical, social and economic effects of these activities for the benefit of present and future generations.

GOAL 3.0

Promote the economic productivity of coastal resources.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Determine appropriate harvest quotas to maintain maximum fish yields.

II. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Con't.

- 3.2 Reserve lands suitable for agriculture for that purpose, and provide means for protecting viable farm operations from development pressures.
- 3.3 Protect coastal soil and mineral resources from avoidable depletion or loss.
- 3.4 Reserve suitable woodlands and forests for timber, wildlife and recreation.

GOAL 4.0

Promote orderly, cost-efficient development patterns in the coastal zone.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Prevent sprawl and scattered growth in the coastal zone by directing new residential, commercial and industrial development toward existing communities when capacity can accommodate such growth.
- 4.2 Promote energy-efficient development patterns.
- 4.3 Encourage the multiple use of coastal sites and facilities for compatible functions, e.g., consolidation of infrastructure sites.
- 4.4 When economically feasible, eliminate deteriorated development that is beyond repair and rehabilitate impaired development that is still functionally useful.
- 4.5 Upgrade urban waterfronts.

GOAL 5.0

Resolve land use and water use conflicts in the coastal zone.

OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 Establish priorities for coastal zone development which reflect the following considerations: dependency on a shoreline site, environmental compatibility, scale of significance, and contribution to the achievement of coastal area objectives.
- 5.2 Develop means for managing coastal development based on priority use determinations.

III. ENVIRONMENT

PRESERVE, PROTECT, ENHANCE, AND WHERE POSSIBLE RESTORE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE'S COASTAL AREA.

GOAL 1.0

Minimize shoreline destruction. →

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Preserve freshwater and marine wetlands through the enforcement of existing wetlands legislation, public acquisition, and other appropriate means.
- 1.2 Protect flood-prone coastal areas through such regulatory tools as flood plain zoning.
- 1.3 Control future development on fragile coastal landforms and shoreline features, including dunes, bluffs, beaches, highly erodible land, etc.
- 1.4 Adopt erosion-control measures that are compatible with natural processes, with emphasis on non-structural methods.
- 1.5 Establish shoreline development patterns which will help minimize loss of life and property from damage due to hazards such as storm run-up and wave action.
- 1.6 Adopt methods for prevention and clean-up of shoreline damage and water pollution caused by oil spills.

GOAL 2.0

Preserve, protect and enhance air and water resources.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Regulate the disposal of waste and toxic releases into air and water.
- 2.2 Upgrade discharges into water and air through improved sewage treatment, emission control devices, etc.
- 2.3 Enforce existing air and water quality standards, and adopt additional standards, where necessary.

- 2.4 Preserve and restore the natural resource base of watersheds through land and water management planning.
- 2.5 Provide for the regulation of non-point pollution sources.
- 2.6 Provide an adequate supply of high quality water to meet the water supply needs of the State.
- 2.7 Eliminate waste of water resources through conservation of existing water supplies.

GOAL 3.0

Protect coastal resources essential to the sustained productivity of coastal plant and animal life.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Protect high quality plant and animal habitats, such as fish spawning areas, shellfish beds, and estuarine areas.
- 3.2 Protect areas which contain rare, exceptional, or endangered plant and animal species.
- 3.3 Ensure conservation of existing fish and wildlife through the adoption and enforcement of safe minimum standards for species maintenance.

GOAL 4.0

Promote uses and activities in the coastal zone that are environmentally compatible with the area.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Consider environmental factors such as physical limitations and advantages, pollution control, and the preservation of natural processes when establishing priorities for coastal activities.
- 4.2 Develop regulations and incentives to encourage uses which are environmentally compatible with the area and each other and to discourage and prevent those uses which are not.

GOAL 5.0

Restore and enhance, wherever possible, environmentally damaged resources.

OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 Reclaim coastal areas that have been damaged by human activities such as mining, dredging, and filling.
- 5.2 Reintroduce natural processes in altered coastal ecosystems, such as estuaries, wherever feasible.
- 5.3 Replenish depleted fish and wildlife resources.
- 5.4 Prevent further unnecessary destruction of natural resources and require that unavoidable environmental damage be offset by restoration.

IV. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

GOAL 1.0

Encourage research and education to increase knowledge and understanding of the coastal environment.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Develop an education program that ensures public awareness of activities and issues related to coastal conservation and development and encourages proper use of coastal resources.
- 1.2 Provide for a continuing program of research into the coastal environment.

GOAL 2.0

Provide current and long range planning; create, reevaluate and coordinate standards and policies that guide and regulate coastal development and conservation.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Monitor international, national, interstate, state and local plans and programs impinging on New York State's coastal area to avoid duplication and waste.
- 2.2 Ensure the opportunity for federal and local involvement in the development of the State coastal management program.
- 2.3 Assure the compatibility of New York State's coastal management program with existing and future public programs and policies, including the 701 and 208 programs.
- 2.4 Encourage information exchange between governmental units through coordinating committees, project review, and other appropriate techniques.
- 2.5 Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of existing permit processes to expedite required permit procedures for coastal activities.

IV. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION - Con't.

GOAL 3.0

Provide for the resolution of conflicts between diverse interests in the coastal zone.

OBJECTIVES

Conflict resolution

- 3.1 Determine potential conflicts between local, regional, statewide, national and private development interests.
- 3.2 Preserve local autonomy in development decisions of not greater than local significance.
- 3.3 In development decisions of regional, statewide or national significance, establish means for resolving conflicts between diverse interests.

GOAL 4.0

Assure the opportunity for public involvement in the development and implementation of the program.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Identify the preferences and priorities of local citizens in management and development issues.
- 4.2 Develop mechanisms for integrating citizen priorities into the planning and decision-making process.
- 4.3 Inform the public of coastal zone management plans and programs.
- 4.4 Modify and revise program elements, based on recommendations from the public.

GOAL 5.0

Provide legal and administrative mechanisms for implementing coastal area plans.

OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 Determine legal implications of contemplated state coastal policies and administrative decisions.

IV. PROGRAM ORGANIZATION - Con't.

- 5.2 Establish effective authorities for coastal management making use of existing authorities where possible.
- 5.3 Develop standards for systematically implementing State coastal priorities and recommendations.
- 5.4 Adopt legislation designating areas of concern which would be subject to public acquisition or regulatory control.
- 5.5 After program approval, ensure that coastal related actions of local, state, regional and federal governmental agencies are consistent with the approved New York State Coastal Management program.